

**ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
FOR PEOPLE WITH COMMON HOUSEHOLD PETS
(small animals such as dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, or rodents)**



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

1. Persons with pets who may be displaced by a disaster should make arrangements NOW for their pets' safety. If you will need help to evacuate (e.g., if you have a disability) and have a pet, inform your local public-safety office or emergency manager as soon as possible.
2. Be sure licenses and vaccinations are up-to-date!
3. Assemble the following **Pet ID Pack** (one for each pet) in a waterproof envelope or bag. It should contain:
 - ☐ Proof of pet ownership, such as copies of adoption papers, registration papers, proof of purchase, microchip/tattoo numbers or registry phone numbers. List each animal, indicating its species/breed, age, sex, whether neutered/spayed, color, and distinguishing characteristics.
 - ☐ A recent photo of the pet and its owner.
 - ☐ A copy of the pet's current medical records, including its vaccination history (types of vaccines and dates given), current rabies certificate, important test results (e.g., FeLV, FIV, Heartworm), and existing medical problems.
 - ☐ Current prescriptions. List each animal separately along with the name of that pet's medication, the dose and frequency given. Provide veterinary hospital and pharmacy telephone numbers for refills.
 - ☐ Contact information for a "buddy", a reliable friend or relative who lives reasonably far away (for example, in a place unlikely to be flooded under the same conditions as yours).
 - ☐ Any special care instructions, detailed enough for animal care or rescue workers to follow. Record the diet for each animal, including what NOT TO FEED, in case of allergies
4. Keep a copy of this **Pet ID Pack** with you and send a copy to your "buddy."
5. In case it is best to stay put, identify a place at home to keep your pets indoors, ideally comfortable and convenient but also sheltered from outside hazards.
6. In case an evacuation is necessary, do NOT assume that public shelters will also accommodate animals (except for service animals such as guide dogs). Make and keep up-to-date a list of pet-friendly motels, reliable friends, or relatives where you and your pets could seek shelter together and a list of kennels. These places should be well separated from your home but close to the interstate or evacuation route. Call ahead to ask if there is space and if special forms of payment or security deposits need to be readied.
7. Arrange now for transportation of pets and carriers, especially if you may need assistance.
8. Assemble the following items in a **Go Kit**, ready to grab and go with you in an evacuation. Label each item with indelible ink:
 - ☐ The **Pet ID Pack**, including identification and health records.

- ☐ A cage, carrier or crate – one for each household pet – large enough for the pet to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Allow room for a food and water dish (and litter pan if appropriate).
- ☐ A proper-fitting collar or harness, to be worn AT ALL TIMES.
- ☐ A sturdy six-foot leash, to be readily available AT ALL TIMES.
- ☐ Identification and current rabies tags affixed to the collar.
- ☐ First aid kit.
- ☐ Make sure identification tags or tape are as weather-proof and as securely fastened as possible to your pet's collar and to its carrier, cage, or crate. Include your name, address, and contact information as well as contact information for a “buddy,” a reliable friend or relative far from the disaster site.
- ☐ At least a three-day supply of food, the kind your pet is used to eating. If your pet eats canned food, have ready a reserve of cans that are small enough for one feeding per can. During an emergency, there may be no way to refrigerate leftovers. Store ready-to-go food in an airtight, waterproof container and rotate the contents at least every three months.
- ☐ At least a three-day supply of water. Water is even more important than food!
 - A 10-pound animal drinks about one pint (16 fluid ounces) of water per day
 - A 20-pound animal drinks about one quart of water per day
 - A 50-pound animal drinks about a half-gallon of water per day
- ☐ At least a three-day supply of any regular medications.
- ☐ Three bowls (one for food, one for water, and one spare) for each pet, plus a measuring spoon or scoop to measure or mix food. For cans, pack a manual can opener.
- ☐ Bedding and litter material (such as a litter box, bagged kitty litter or clean newspaper) sufficient for at least three days.
- ☐ Pet comfort items such as towels, blankets, or toys.
- ☐ Plastic bags, paper towels, disinfectant for clean-up.
- ☐ Flashlights, batteries.

See also:

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [Preparing Your Pet for Emergencies](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), [Caring for Animals](#).

American Red Cross (ARC), [Animal Safety](#).

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), [Disaster Preparedness Resources](#), especially [Disaster Preparedness for Pets](#).

American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), [Emergency Pet Preparedness](#).

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), [Saving the Whole Family](#) and [Disaster Preparedness and Response Guide](#).